



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 10 March 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- According to Agence France-Presse, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of State said authorities have placed Syria on a Port Security Advisory List because of concerns about the connections between Syria and international terrorist organizations. The move allows the U.S. Coast Guard to impose additional port security measures to ships traveling to or arriving in U.S. ports that have previously been departing from Syria or have called on Syrian ports. (See item [20](#))
- The Associated Press reports unsafe medical procedures that spread hepatitis C among six patients at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas may be more widespread and may have resulted in more infections than first believed. Health inspections at 13 other outpatient surgical centers in the Las Vegas area have also found several violations of standard practices. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 7, Republican* – (Massachusetts) **Gas line strikes set for probe.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) began an investigation last Thursday into why there have been so many gas lines hit during the ongoing \$13.8 million North Fairview sewer separation project. Bay State Gas Co. requested the

investigation after reporting 14 instances of pipelines being hit by the project contractor, Revoli Construction Co., of Franklin. A DPU spokesperson said the state would be coordinating training sessions for Revoli crews on Dig Safe Law guidelines in April. She said the department would also continue to investigate damage reports filed by Bay State Gas. “The main issue is public safety,” said a city engineer. “We’re talking gas and explosion possibilities.”

Source: <http://www.masslive.com/chicopeeholyoke/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-13/1204878070108060.xml&coll=1>

2. *March 7, Bloomberg* – (Louisiana) **ConocoPhillips Belle Chase refinery unit heater needs repairs.** ConocoPhillips, the second-largest U.S. refiner, said a heater on a low-sulfur gas unit is undergoing repairs after a malfunction at the company’s Belle Chase, Louisiana, refinery. The company is assessing the possible impact of the repairs on production, a company spokesman said.
Source:
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aNXKGUCt6KkM&refer=energy>
3. *March 7, RenewableEnergyWorld.com* – (International) **Imports from Latin America may help U.S. meet energy goals.** Latin American nations could become important suppliers of ethanol for world markets in coming decades, according to an Oak Ridge National Laboratory study. The report, “Biofuel Feedstock Assessment for Selected Countries,” projects that Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and members of the Caribbean Basin Initiative could produce sufficient feedstock for more than 30 billion gallons of ethanol per year by 2017, which would represent a six-fold increase over current production. Nearly 40 percent of the projected supply in 2017 is based on the potential to use new technology to produce advanced biofuels from cellulosic feedstock using crop residues and forestry byproducts. The results suggest that an increasing portion of U.S. fossil fuel imports that now arrive from distant nations in Africa and the Middle East Asia could be replaced by renewable biofuels from neighbors in the Americas.
Source:
<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story;jsessionid=0D96CF0765B7FFCF84D9960E83D3789D?id=51756>
4. *March 6, Columbian* – (Washington) **State Senate OKs climate change bill.** The Washington Senate passed a climate change bill last Wednesday that supporters called “historic.” The bill mandates that the state reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, to 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035, and to 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. It would require the state’s largest industries and energy utilities to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions, to join a national registry of polluters, and eventually to live with new statewide emission caps. It would direct the Department of Ecology to design a cap-and-trade system for limiting carbon emissions that would be presented to the 2009 Legislature, and that could become a model for a regional system covering several Western states and Canadian provinces. It would require the Department of Transportation to adopt statewide goals for reducing per capita vehicle miles traveled by the year 2050. And it would direct the Department of Community,

Trade, and Economic Development to survey the employment potential in clean-energy businesses. The state has already set a goal of creating 25,000 “green-collar” jobs by the year 2020. Washington joins California and New Jersey in placing limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/2008/03/03062008_State-Senate-OKs-climate-change-bill.cfm

5. *March 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Feds push forward with power line plan for mid-Atlantic, southwest states.** New power line construction is more likely in the mid-Atlantic states and the southwest after the government last Thursday said it was pushing ahead with a plan to expand and modernize the electric grid in those areas. The U.S. Department of Energy formally denied requests for a rehearing of a previous decision making it easier to build power lines in the designated areas, saying challenges by those who oppose new line construction were meritless. The department said the findings of energy congestion in the areas “are well-founded and based on data and studies.”

Source: <http://www.ihl.com/articles/ap/2008/03/06/america/Avoiding-Blackouts.php>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

6. *March 6, Greenpeace* – (National) **House Security Committee passes chemical plant anti-terrorism bill.** In a bipartisan vote, the House Homeland Security Committee passed Thursday the “Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Act of 2008.” The bill would significantly strengthen the Department of Homeland Security’s regulations and create a permanent law to address the risks posed by chemical facilities. In response to the bill’s passage, the Legislative Director for Greenpeace USA’s toxics campaign issued the following statement: “If enacted, this new law could save thousands of lives. By using safer chemicals to replace obsolete poison gases, a U.S. chemical plant no longer could be turned into a weapon of mass destruction. Under the existing interim law, the most ironclad security measures and safer technologies are actually barred from becoming a security requirement.” The bill will go next to the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Source: <http://www.commondreams.org/news2008/0306-15.htm>

7. *March 5, Toronto Star* – (National) **Hazardous materials accidents rise in 2007.** U.S. rail incidents in which hazardous materials were released rose 54 percent in 2007, while the total number of accidents fell for the third straight year, a federal agency said. The number of accidents that involved a hazardous release increased to 43 last year from 28 in 2006, the Federal Railroad Administration said yesterday on its website. That was the most in at least a decade. Total rail accidents fell 5.8 percent to 12,622, the lowest in at least a decade, the Washington-based agency said.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com/Business/article/309439>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

8. *March 7, Lake County News-Sun* – (Illinois) **Nuke fuel may stay in Zion indefinitely.** If all goes as planned, the cooling towers that served the Zion nuclear plant in Illinois will be gone from the Lake Michigan shoreline in ten years. But that current plan also calls for the plant's spent fuel to remain near the shore indefinitely, in a new dry-storage building surrounded by security fences and landscape berms. The vice president of new plant development for Exelon Nuclear said the independent spent fuel storage installation is not intended to be a permanent solution. Exelon hopes to move the spent fuel to the planned federal repository at Yucca, but acknowledges that there is no forecast about when or whether that might happen. The Exelon executive said the dry-storage concept "is the only option we realistically have right now."
Source: http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/830397,5_1_WA07_ZION_S1.article
9. *March 6, Tri-City Herald* – (National) **DOE expects to miss 18 cleanup deadlines in next 2 years.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) expects to miss 18 cleanup deadlines at Hanford during the next two years, DOE's top cleanup official said last Thursday, adding the nuclear reservation's budget would have to grow by \$500 million in order to meet all the milestones. In addition, the DOE's assistant secretary for environmental management said the overall cleanup budget would have to be increased \$800 million to \$900 million if DOE was to meet the cleanup deadlines at all of its sites. The downside of not meeting the deadlines nationwide is roughly \$10 million in fines, he said, and the fines would be paid out of cleanup money for the sites where the milestones were missed.
Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/945/story/110613.html>
10. *March 6, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **NRC issues annual assessments for nation's nuclear plants.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued annual assessment letters to the nation's 104 operating commercial nuclear power plants. All the plants continue to operate safely. "The 2007 year-end results show that about 80 percent of the plants are performing strongly enough that we're satisfied with our basic level of inspections at those locations," said a director in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. Only one plant, Palo Verde in Arizona, requires the NRC's highest level of attention. It will continue to undergo additional inspections this year to confirm the plant's performance issues are being addressed. Eight plants require significant NRC attention, and another eight plants will get some additional attention beyond the basic level.
Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-044.html>
11. *March 5, Associated Press* – (Idaho) **E. Idaho officials question radioactive leak reporting.** Emergency responders and an elected official in eastern Idaho are questioning why they were not contacted immediately following a mishap with a radioactive isotope. On February 29, a worker for Sabia Inc. inhaled an unknown amount of strontium-90 while extracting radioactive material from a gauge and preparing the gauge for disposal. An Idaho Falls Fire Department division chief, who is also the leader of the state agency's Region 6 Hazardous Materials Response Team, said

he did not find out about the leak until March 1.

Source: <http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=7972013>

12. *March 5, Times Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Suit seeks to halt PPL nuke plans.** Alleging regulatory agencies failed to fully address environmental concerns, nuclear power watchdog group Three Mile Island Alert filed last Wednesday a federal lawsuit that seeks to prevent PPL from increasing the generation capacity of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. The suit seeks to halt all action by PPL until the company addresses “unresolved water use, water safety, and interagency issues.”

Source: http://www.timesleader.com/news/20080306_06NUKE_tmb_ART.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

13. *March 7, Aviation Week* – (National) **Study notes USCG acquisition shortfalls.** An outside Alternatives Analysis ordered by the U.S. Coast Guard has found that regardless of the actions selected from a range of recommendations, the service faces infrastructure funding and scheduling shortfalls in modernization. The long-awaited analysis, spurred by widespread congressional criticism last year over Deepwater program failings, looked at planned new Coast Guard cutters, patrol boats, aircraft, and a vertical-takeoff-and-landing unmanned aerial vehicle (VUAV). A “greater uncertainty about performance, cost and schedule” exists for those particular programs as well as for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems, according to the analysis. It concluded that risk exists even at the baseline level for the National Security, Offshore Patrol, and Fast Response cutters, as well as the VUAV effort.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/USCG030708.xml&headline=Study%20notes%20USCG%20acquisition%20shortfalls

14. *March 5, Agence France-Presse* – (National) **Contract awarded for “fractionated” satellites.** Lockheed Martin has been awarded a \$5.7 million Pentagon contract to design clusters of small, individually launched satellites that can operate as a network in space. The contract awarded by the Defense Advanced Research Agency (DARPA) was for the first phase of a program dubbed “F6.” The program aims to show that large traditional satellites can be replaced with smaller “fractionated” satellites that would fly in clusters and be linked through wireless networks. Capabilities such as computing, ground communications, or payloads could be distributed among the satellites in the network, the company said. The company aims to launch and demonstrate the system in orbit in approximately four years.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3408002&c=AME&s=AIR>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

15. **March 7, *Newsday*** – (New York) **NYPD breaks up massive credit card fraud ring.**

New York police special investigators say they broke up a stolen credit card ring in Queens yesterday, arresting 38 people across the city and Long Island who printed phony credit cards with account numbers of American consumers whose numbers were stolen by a computer hacker in China. The criminal enterprise, dubbed by the NYPD as “The House of Cards,” produced 3,000 fake credit cards a month, as well as phony driver’s licenses from New York, Illinois and Washington, police said. It affected tens of thousands of customers, police said. Police from the Organized Theft and Identity Theft Task Force seized a credit card coding machine, metal plates, a credit card embossing machine, gold and silver foil and 95 counterfeit credit cards from the apartment of the man who ran the operation. Police said the man enlisted crews of shoppers with fake IDs to board various flights to Chicago, Los Angeles, San Antonio, Texas and Miami. The New York-based shopping crews then bought lavish, luxury high-end merchandise that was sold on the Internet. The total stolen could be in the millions of dollars, police said. Some customers have been notified, but a commissioner urged people to check their bills for possible fraud. Thousands of telephone conversations were translated from Chinese. Police have not found the Chinese hacker who stole the credit card numbers. Those arrested are charged with defrauding consumers and several financial corporations. If convicted, they face up to 25 years in prison.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-liring0307,0,283158,print.story>

16. **March 7, *Los Angeles Times*** – (California) **Family members held in major insurance scam.** Before dawn Thursday, 200 Los Angeles police officers raided homes throughout the city and across the Southland with arrest warrants for more than 40 people, who, investigators say, were involved in one of California’s largest, longest-running auto insurance fraud scams. The documents the detectives compiled tell of dozens of allegedly fabricated accidents since 2000 that amounted to more than \$512,000 being bilked from 10 insurance companies. In one claim alone, the ring milked State Farm Insurance for nearly \$137,000 for faked injuries and car damage, according to police documents. And that, insurance industry investigators say, is only a slice of the several millions of dollars the ring is suspected of pocketing over more than two decades of scamming. The case offers a unique glimpse into automobile insurance fraud, an increasingly sophisticated racket that costs insurers billions of dollars a year. Police and insurance investigators said the ring allegedly ran a textbook scam: Buy a cheap, beat-up car at an auction, register it and insure it at multiple companies -- often using aliases or stolen identities. Then, recruit family members or acquaintances willing to pose as passengers in the car. Next, make up a story about a traffic collision, usually claiming that the car was rear-ended and shoved into a parked car. Use photos of the already damaged cars to bolster the tales. After that, send the fake victims to a chiropractor (who happens to be the leader’s daughter), who embellishes treatments for fake injuries. Finally, use lawyers in on the scam to submit claims and demand payments for both injuries and damage to the car.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/los_angeles_metro/la-me-fraud7mar07,1,5165069.story?track=rss&ctrack=1&cset=true

17. *March 6, IDG News Service* – (National) **CEBIT: Countertop scanner nabs North Korean ‘super dollars.’** A U.S. company has introduced a small counterfeit bill detector designed for retail use that can sniff out the “super dollar,” a convincing yet bogus \$100 bill allegedly produced in North Korea. At five inches wide, three inches tall and six inches long, the D500 Super Dollar Authenticator is diminutive enough for retailers to place beside cash registers, said a vice president of sales for AccuBanker USA. The U.S. Treasury Department has warned that counterfeiting operations are increasing since less-skilled criminals can make better fakes with today’s PCs and digital printers. At the end of 2005, the U.S. Secret Service estimated \$61 million of the \$760 billion in U.S. money circulating worldwide was fake.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9067038&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

18. *March 7, USA Today* – (National) **TSA looks for laptop case that can clear security.** The Transportation Security Administration is taking aim at one of the biggest airport-security hassles: it is trying to find a way to let travelers leave laptops in their cases at checkpoints. The agency is searching for a “checkpoint-friendly” case that would give screeners a clear view as it goes through an X-ray machine. One possible design is a case that unfolds like a book, with a laptop on one side and gear on the other side. Prototypes are being solicited from companies. New cases could ease security for the 250 million travelers who bring laptops on airplanes each year and speed lines for everyone, the TSA technology chief said. The TSA will begin prototype testing in June. It could eventually set standards for checkpoint-friendly cases and require unique features that would signal to airport screeners that the bags can go through X-rays with laptops inside.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2008-03-06-laptop_N.htm?csp=34

19. *March 6, NBC 2 Charleston* – (National) **Missing FAA badges.** The federal government insists it does its best to keep the traveling public safe and secure, but apparently dozens of federal inspectors failed to do that with their own credentials. An aviation expert says “the (Federal Aviation Administration) FAA badge of all the badges is probably the most dangerous.” An NBC5 investigation revealed that over the past 5 years 112 FAA aviation inspector badges have been stolen or lost. The expert says “with that badge you can get in the cockpit in flight.” He also points out those FAA badges can give a person free and uninterrupted access to nearly every secure area of an airport. The FAA refused a request for an on camera interview, and when pressed over the phone, a spokesman could not guarantee FAA badge holders always go through security check points. More than 100 FAA credentials are now floating around unaccounted leaving travelers unsettled and uneasy.

Source: <http://www.wcbd.com/midatlantic/cbd/news.apx.-content-articles-CBD-2008-03-06-0012.html>

20. *March 6, Agence Franc- Presse* – (National) **US raises security precautions for ships arriving from Syria.** Authorities fearing alleged Syrian links with terrorism are increasing security for ships sailing into US ports after making calls in Syria, an official said, as Washington raised pressure on Damascus. The new measures come after Washington deployed warships near Syria in the eastern Mediterranean, stepped up sanctions on Syria and blacklisted men who allegedly used Syria to aid Al-Qaeda operations in Iraq. A State Department deputy spokesman said Syria was placed on a so-called “Port Security Advisory List” because of “concerns about the connections between Syria and international terrorist organizations.” The move allows the US Coast Guard “to impose some additional port security measures to ships traveling to or arriving in US ports that have previously been either departing from Syria or have called on Syrian ports,” he said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080306/pl_afp/syriasecurityportsusattacks_080306223617

21. *March 6, Aviation International News* – (National) **NTSB tired of FAA’s inaction on pilot fatigue.** The National Transportation Safety Board has called the Federal Aviation Administration’s response “unacceptable” to four out of six safety recommendations addressing human fatigue and duty-time limitations. The agency issued the report to coincide with National Sleep Awareness Week. “The Safety Board is very concerned about reducing accidents and incidents caused by human fatigue,” the NTSB chairman said, adding that fatigue was a probable cause or contributing factor in “numerous” accidents. The recommendations include requiring training, check flights, ferry and repositioning flights to be included in a pilot’s total revenue time; ensuring that flight and duty time limitations take into consideration research findings in fatigue and sleep issues; reviewing the issue of personnel fatigue in aviation maintenance; and taking into consideration the length of a duty day, starting time and workload when assigning flight crew hours. The FAA has not to date altered a 2001 Federal Register notice that calls for eight hours of rest in any 24-hour period that includes flight time. An FAA spokesman told Aviation International News, “We believe the rules and guidance we have in place are fundamentally sound.”

Source: http://www.ainonline.com/news/single-news-page/article/ntsb-tired-of-faas-inaction-on-pilot-fatigue/?no_cache=1&cHash=e53fe5b09e

22. *March 6, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Equipment spots nuclear materials in security test.** Equipment in two trailers sniffed out nuclear materials Thursday on cars and trucks boarding the Bolivar Ferry in Galveston Island, Texas, in the first field test of the device in a maritime setting, a Homeland Security official said. The transportable radiation monitoring system, or TRMS, began screening cars entering the ferry from Galveston Island for the first full-day of an eight-day trial, said a Transportation Safety Agency branch chief. He said the equipment stuffed in two trailers, each about the size of a horse trailer designed for carrying two horses, is being tested for the first time on vehicles

boarding a vessel. Six TSA employees from Hobby Airport were trained on using the machine Wednesday and are now being tested by TSA vehicles carrying a small amount of radioactive material, he said. So far screeners have detected the material in the test vehicles every time, the official said. The trailers are set up in the grass medians at the ferry entrance so that cars and trucks must pass between them. The system is passive, meaning it detects radiation without emitting signals or harmful rays. If radiation is detected, the car or truck is pulled over for an examination by two TSA employees. By noon Thursday four cars had been pulled over that were not part of the test, mostly because of medicine emitting low amounts of radiation, the TSA official said. The TRMS experimental model, which costs about \$150,000, is so sensitive that it can detect the radiation in someone who has been injected with radioactive dye for a medical procedure two weeks after the injection, he said. If TRMS is adopted, it probably will be moved randomly and used in places where there is a threat, he said. Having a pool of trained personnel will make it much easier to deploy, he said.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/5598533.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Georgia) Did pollutants used as fertilizer kill cattle?

Last week, a federal judge ordered the Agriculture Department to compensate a farmer whose land was poisoned by sludge from an Augusta, Georgia, waste treatment plant. The farmer lost hundreds of cows. The Associated Press has also learned that some of the same contaminants showed up in milk that regulators allowed a neighboring dairy farmer to market, even after some officials said they were warned about it. In one case, according to test results provided to the AP, the level of thallium – an element once used as rat poison – found in the milk was 120 times the concentration allowed in drinking water by the Environmental Protection Agency. The contaminated milk and the recent ruling raise new doubts about a 30-year government “biosolids” policy that encourages farmers to spread millions of tons of sewage sludge over thousands of acres each year as an alternative to commercial fertilizers. The program is still in effect. The sludge that contaminated the 1,730 acres the farmer wanted to plant in corn and cotton to feed his herd contained levels of arsenic, toxic heavy metals, and PCBs two to 2,500 times federal health standards. Data endorsed by Agriculture and EPA officials about toxic heavy metals found in the free sludge provided by Augusta’s sewage treatment plant was “unreliable, incomplete, and in some cases, fudged,” the judge wrote, adding that EPA officials took extraordinary steps to quash scientific dissent, and any questioning of EPA’s biosolids program.”

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23506826/>

24. *March 6, CNN* – (National) **USDA could install cameras in slaughterhouses.** Cameras could be placed in about 800 U.S. slaughterhouses to watch for improper procedures and inhumane handling of cattle, a federal official said Thursday. A Senate committee recommended installing the cameras three years ago, but the proposal is getting new consideration in the wake of a massive recall of beef last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary told a House committee Thursday.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/03/06/meat.cameras/>
25. *March 6, Reuters* – (National) **Lawmakers demand USDA list beef recall stores.** Democratic lawmakers on Thursday demanded the U.S. Agriculture Department release by next week a list of stores which received the 143 million pounds of beef recalled by a Westland/Hallmark Meat Packing Co last month, but administration officials said that may not be possible. The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Agency first proposed two years ago that retail establishments receiving recalled products be identified publicly, to give consumers important information more quickly. The USDA had planned to begin listing retailers later this year, but lawmakers and consumer groups are now pushing the department to do it sooner following the February 17 recall. The meat from the recall, the largest in U.S. history, was delivered to just under 10,000 suppliers, who later distributed the product to restaurants, retailers, and other establishments, according to USDA. Currently, it is difficult for consumers who have purchased tainted products to locate a store because USDA considers recall distribution lists to be confidential and leaves it up to retailers to decide whether to disclose details. Most of the meat probably already has been consumed, and no illnesses have been reported.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN0649176520080306?sp=true>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

26. *March 6, Mercury News* – (California) **Pacifica waste-water treatment dumped sewage into ocean, records show.** Overwhelmed by the biggest storm in many years, Pacifica, California's wastewater-treatment facility dumped more than 7.5 million gallons of partially treated sewage into the ocean on January 25 and 26, records obtained by the San Mateo County Times show. That violation far surpasses the 5.2 million gallons cumulatively dumped into Richardson Bay on January 25 and 31 by the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin and is part of a lengthy record of violations at the Pacifica plant, although plant officials call the event an anomaly. Although no humans or animals were known to be affected by it – the county closed all nearby beaches for five days, and did not observe any dead fish in nearby Calera Creek – some concerned residents say the malfunction, and the problems that preceded it, do not bode well for plans to add a biodiesel production plant on the same property. The biodiesel plant would use treated water from the wastewater facility and dump its effluent, which contains chemicals like methanol, back into the plant to be processed. Plant officials trace the problem to a breakdown in the cleaning process. A sequenced batch reactor – one of six tanks involved in separating the waste solids – was broken, and the sand filters normally used to catch the smaller particles became rapidly clogged. By the

evening of January 25, the water flowing to the wastewater treatment plant had so overwhelmed the system that 75 percent of the wastewater only went through a settling process and the ultraviolet disinfection process for bacteria associated with fecal coliform and other organisms. The wastewater deposited into Calera Creek, and subsequently the ocean, contained everything from fats and oils to heavy metals and anything else flushed into the sewer system that day.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/lifeandstyleheadlines/ci_8484339

27. *March 6, Circleville Herald* – (Ohio) **Village water high in nitrates.** The village of Laurelville, Ohio, is warning residents to not give village tap water to infants because of high levels of nitrates. The advisory is expected to run at least through March 11, pending results of water test samples that were taken Wednesday and Monday, according to Laurelville's water consultant. "The water is safe to drink as long as it's not being consumed by infants," he said. The problem is most likely in the village's source water. Nitrates can seep into the water source from agricultural or sewage runoff, according to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Source:

<http://www.circlevilleherald.com/main.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=98&ArticleID=105854&TM=36389.15>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *March 7, Independent Online* – (International) **Bird flu detected in Vietnam's capital.** Vietnamese officials said on Friday that bird flu has made a comeback in Vietnam's capital after being held at bay for more than a year, and chided farmers for negligence in fighting the virus. Bird flu struck a farm in the suburban Soc Son district of Hanoi, killing more than 2,000 unvaccinated ducks, chickens, and geese. Test results showed they were infected with the dangerous H5N1 virus, the department of animal health reported on its Web site on Friday. Authorities disinfected and slaughtered the remaining 1,500 birds on the farm, it said.

Source:

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?click_id=31&art_id=nw20080307085326436C928637&set_id=

29. *March 7, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Vegas hepatitis exposure list incomplete.** The unsafe medical procedures that spread hepatitis C among patients at a large Las Vegas surgical clinic may be more widespread and may have resulted in more infections than first believed, health officials said Thursday. Health inspections at 13 other outpatient surgical centers in the Las Vegas area found several violations of standard practices, the head of the state licensing bureau testified to a legislative committee on health care. She would not comment more precisely on the nature of violations in other surgical centers. The public hearing was the first investigating an outbreak of the hepatitis C virus traced to the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada. Six patients have been diagnosed with acute hepatitis C. The surgical center and five affiliated clinics have been closed, and five nurses have surrendered their licenses. In the largest patient notification effort in

U.S. history, nearly 40,000 people treated at the center from March 2004 to mid-January were sent letters telling them they are at risk for exposure and should be tested for hepatitis, strands B and C, and HIV.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i8B3EkqPbRHRxqB6l6BG6ZL1bn9QD8V8CITO2>

30. *March 7, USA Today* – (National) **U.S. health agencies stand behind safety of vaccines.** Federal health officials restated their belief in the safety of childhood vaccines Thursday, reacting to questions raised by a government settlement with the family of a 9-year-old Georgia girl, who developed neurological problems shortly after receiving childhood shots. The government agreed to pay the family from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program in November. The issue has rekindled the autism and vaccine debate in the past few days. The Associated Press obtained documents about the case from the Department of Health and Human Services, where the vaccine-compensation program is located. The amount of the settlement has not yet been set. U.S. officials have not said vaccines caused the girl's autism-like symptoms. Instead, officials said the shots exacerbated the girl's underlying medical condition, an extremely rare disorder of the mitochondria, which are energy-producing structures inside the cell. The child's parents called on the government to remove thimerosal – a mercury-based preservative – from all flu shots.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-03-07-vaccines-autism_N.htm

Government Facilities Sector

31. *March 7, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Man crashed into agency's gates, made bomb threat, authorities say.** A man drove a pickup with a snowplow into a gate at Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in McLean, Virginia, and threatened to detonate a bomb before being taken into custody by CIA officers, according to court documents and law enforcement officials. An affidavit said the suspect's speeding pickup crashed into the gate, causing the metal barrier to swing open. He then left the truck and made a series of threats, including "the truck is going to blow up" and "I have a bomb," a CIA police officer wrote. The suspect also counted down from five several times as if waiting for an explosion, the court papers said. As it turned out, there was no bomb, and the scene was declared safe after the CIA closed the ramps to the parkway.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/06/AR2008030603032.html>

32. *March 7, Fox News* – (New York) **Law enforcement: No link between letter sent to Congress, Times Square bombing.** Authorities said last Friday there was no link between a letter sent to several members of Congress that read "We did it" and the bombing of a military recruiting center in New York City's Times Square. The person who wrote the letter is an anti-war activist and has been questioned in the Los Angeles area, law enforcement officials told the Associated Press. The man sent up to 100 letters to various people in Congress and even mailed a photo of a man standing in front of the

Times Square office. “It was just an incredibly unbelievable coincidence,” said one of the law enforcement officials. Authorities last Thursday questioned the Los Angeles area man who sent the letters, but found his mailings to be unrelated to the bombing and did not expect to bring any charges, the officials said. Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill were startled to receive the letters in their office mail Thursday afternoon, just hours after the early morning New York bombing, and turned them over to the Capitol Police. A local television station reported Thursday night that authorities were revisiting a recent incident along the Canadian border that may be connected to the bombing. The incident last month involved four men who tried to flee the checkpoint when Canadian officials attempted to question them at the border, an investigator said. The station reported that two of the men got away. The men left behind a backpack that included photos of locations in New York City, including the recruitment center at Times Square. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,335828,00.html>

33. *March 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Pentagon bans Google teams from bases.** The Pentagon has banned Google Earth teams from making detailed street-level video maps of U.S. military bases. A message sent to all Defense Department bases and installations around the country late last week told officials to not allow the popular mapping Web site from taking panoramic views inside the facilities. A spokesman for U.S. Northern Command said that the decision was made after crews were allowed access to at least one base. He said military officials were concerned that allowing the 360-degree, street-level video could provide sensitive information to potential adversaries and endanger base personnel. His comments came just a few days after published reports suggested that protesters used Google Earth to help plot their access to the roof of the Parliament building in London.

Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8V84RL00&show_article=1

34. *March 6, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Explosives suspect will face 2 juries.** A judge on Thursday ordered that a terrorism-related charge against an Egyptian student accused of transporting explosives will be handled in a separate trial from the explosives counts. Two Egyptian students were arrested last summer in South Carolina over material found in their trunk. Prosecutors say it was explosive material; the defense says it was homemade fireworks. One student is also charged with a terrorism-related count stemming from a video found on a laptop computer in the car. The video, which he is accused of producing, shows how to turn a remote controlled toy into a bomb detonator. The University of South Florida engineering students have been in jail since sheriff's deputies found what they called bomb-making materials in the trunk of their car during an August 4 traffic stop near Charleston, South Carolina.

Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iAtZCOCu6i-MQvVj4csX_VuLyY8QD8V864Q82

35. *March 6, WJRT 12 Flint* – (Michigan) **Man threatens Saginaw County Courthouse.** The man who police say threatened to blow up the Saginaw County Courthouse has been charged with making a false report or threat of terrorism. It is the second time in a month in Saginaw County, Michigan, that the charge has been filed against someone. The other time, Michigan State Police troopers were threatened.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/local&id=6003668>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

36. *March 6, WLBT Vicksburg* – (Mississippi) **State's largest emergency response exercise.** 24 state, federal and local agencies staged Mississippi's largest emergency response training exercise ever, this week in Vicksburg. 275 first responders participated. Vicksburg's mayor said he helped organize the event to try to keep from repeating the inadequate governmental response experienced in Hurricane Katrina. He told WLBT News, "I don't believe that our community or the state of Mississippi is any more prepared today, than we were the day Katrina hit this community." The Lt. Col. in charge of the event told WLBT he thought the exercise was a success and it helped relieve "the anxiety of coming together, everybody doing a face to face and discussing the actions, on an objective, once an event happens." Even the F.B.I. participated. The acting agent in charge in Mississippi told WLBT, "We have new radio systems since Katrina came through, and this gives us an opportunity to test those systems." Source: <http://www.wlbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=7977699>

37. *March 6, CBS 2 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Police to be linked to 4,500 school security cams.** Chicago police will soon be keeping a much closer eye on public schools in the city. The principal at one high school praised the cameras and said they have reduced crime and loitering at corners around the building. Chicago's mayor Thursday unveiled a plan to have about 4,500 cameras, inside and outside 200 public schools, linked to police and emergency responders. "If a person knows they're going into a business and there are cameras there you better believe it they're much more reluctant to commit a crime if they're on camera," he said. The Public schools CEO says he would like to eventually have cameras linked to police in every school. "This isn't just about solving crimes, this is about prevention," he said. "It's about giving key information to police officers or first responders as they go to a scene so that's key: information," said the executive director of the city's Office of Emergency Management and Communications. The cost to the city to upgrade the cameras was \$418,000, paid with homeland security funds from the federal government. Source: <http://cbs2chicago.com/local/schools.security.cameras.2.671387.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

38. *March 7, Washington Post* – (National) **Washington prepares for cyber war games.** The U.S. government will conduct a series of cyber war games throughout next week to test its ability to recover from and respond to digital attacks. Code-named 'Cyber Storm II,' this is the largest-ever exercise designed to evaluate the mettle of information technology experts and incident response teams from 18 federal agencies, including the CIA, Department of Defense, FBI, and NSA, as well as officials from nine states, including Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia. In addition, more than 40 companies

will be playing, including Cisco Systems, Dow Chemical, McAfee, and Microsoft. In the inaugural Cyber Storm two years ago, planners simulated attacks against the communications and information technology sector, as well as the energy and airline industries. This year's exercise will feature mock attacks by nation states, terrorists and saboteurs against the IT and communications sector and the chemical, pipeline and rail transportation industries. A former director of the National Cyber Security Division at the Department of Homeland Security who helped to plan both exercises said Cyber Storm is designed to be a situational pressure-cooker for players. Those who adopt the proper stance or response to a given incident are quickly rewarded by having to respond to even more complex and potentially disastrous scenarios. Players will receive information about the latest threats in part from a simulated news outlet, and at least a portion of the feeds they receive will be intentionally misleading, he said. At a cost of roughly \$6.2 million, Cyber Storm II has been nearly 18 months in the planning, with representatives from across the government and technology industry devising attack scenarios aimed at testing specific areas of weakness in their respective disaster recovery and response plans.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/03/07/AR2008030701157.html>

39. *March 6, CNet News* – (National) **Google says spam is huge corporate headache.**

Google released a white paper on Thursday about trends in electronic communications systems at corporations and found, to no surprise, that spam is a huge problem and getting worse. While overall e-mail message volume per user grew 47 percent, the spam volume was up 57 percent in 2007 to record levels, according to data cited in the 2008 Annual Google Communications Intelligence Report. The average “unprotected user” would have received 36,000 spam messages in the year, up from 23,000 in 2006, the report said. Stopping spam and other malware is the top priority for the government, legal, manufacturing and, for the most part the tech industry, while healthcare, financial and retail companies are more concerned with complying with government regulations, according to online surveys of 575 CEOs, CIOs, and CTOs.

Source: http://www.news.com/8301-10784_3-9888233-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-5

40. *March 6, The Inquirer* – (International) **Olympic Games set to be malware fest.** The Beijing 2008 Olympics may attract more than just the world's finest sporting talents, according to online insecurity firm Websense. Cyber-criminals are very likely to focus attacks on the upcoming Games, reckons Websense's technical consultant for Southeast Asia. It would not be the first time that such attacks had taken place, he said. During the FIFA World Cup 2006, he warned, malware writers set up a replica counterfeit site which made sure that every football fan took away their very own Trojan horse. There is a “possibility of large-scale denial of service attacks on Beijing 2008-related sites as political statements and fraud attempts spread through e-mail and the web,” he noted. He reckoned that Olympic news streams, viewed by millions online, would be a great place to try and stick the odd trojan horse or two.

Source: <http://www.theinquirer.net/gb/inquirer/news/2008/03/06/olympics-games-fine-malware>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *March 6, MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Police investigate bomb scare.**

Police are investigating who called Mathworks -- a Natick, Massachusetts company -- Thursday morning and threatened that a bomb would explode inside the company's headquarters. No bomb was found after four teams of investigators searched the headquarters and nearby buildings for an explosive, said a police official. A Mathworks employee received the threatening phone call at about 8:47 a.m. and staffers contacted police, said the official. Natick police and fire crews responded, plus bomb technicians and canine units from the State Police. Emergency crews evacuated people from the buildings in the area, he said. Four teams searched the area and the buildings -- which consist of the MathWorks headquarters and other businesses -- but did not find a bomb, said the official.

Source: <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/homepage/x1775725545>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

42. *March 7, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Leaking dam to be fixed.** A Rapid City dam that began leaking shortly after it was built in 1976 is going to be repaired and may even be replaced. Officials say water from three large upstream sinkholes is flowing beneath Canyon Lake Dam and could threaten the integrity of the dam if not plugged. An engineering report says a sudden dam failure could cause downstream flooding. But city officials emphasize that the dam is not in imminent danger of failing.

Source:

<http://www.kxmc.com/News/216498.asp>

43. *March 7, News Journal* – (Maryland) **Md. officials keep eye on Conowingo Dam.**

Cecil County, Maryland, officials will continue to monitor the Conowingo Dam after flooding Thursday in Port Deposit, an official said this morning. The Susquehanna flows into the Conowingo Dam, which also carries U.S. 1 across the river, and could flood as runoff from as far north as Pennsylvania and New York travels south, said a lieutenant at the 911 Dispatch Center in Cecil County. About 20 of the approximately 55 flood gates were opened Thursday night to relieve pressure. Currently, 16 gates are open as the water level has receded during the overnight hours. A flood watch remains in effect until Saturday, said the National Weather Service.

Source:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080307/NEWS/80307007>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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